



**Return to
School Plan**
2022-2023 School Year

Revised August 1, 2022

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Disclaimer

This is a working document that will be updated and revised as new information becomes available or as circumstances deem necessary.

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The Winston County School System has developed a school reopening plan with tremendous care and caution, with a focus on flexibility. Our intent is to reopen schools in a traditional fashion. Our plan is contingent on the pandemic and compliance with any executive or statewide orders. The following plan outlines measures Winston County Schools will take in order to continue providing a quality education while putting safety first for students, faculty, and staff.



Winston County Students, Families, Staff, and Friends:

The changes in our lives due to the COVID-19 Pandemic are many. Unfortunately, the impact of the virus continues to change the most fundamental aspects of how we live, including how we hold school. When students return to campus for in-person instruction, learning will look much different than previous years because of new health and safety measures. The Winston County Roadmap to Reopening Schools has attempted to take into account every aspect of safe reopening. I want to reiterate the pride I have for our communities and its response to the ongoing epidemic. The events that began to unfold in March have created enormous challenges and the Winston County School System is here to help support our families, staff, and community during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Greg Pendley, Winston County Schools Superintendent

Winston County Schools 2022-2023 Calendar

First day of school for students: August 8, 2022



2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR FALL SEMESTER

AUGUST
 Aug. 2..... Teacher Institute Day
 Aug. 3-5..... Teacher In-Service Days
 Aug. 4..... Teacher In-Service Day/Open House
Aug. 8..... First Day for Students

SEPTEMBER
 Sept. 5..... No School-Labor Day
 Sept. 12..... Virtual Learning/PD Day

OCTOBER
 Oct. 10..... Virtual Learning/PD Day
 Oct. 31..... Teacher In-Service Day/FLEX Day

NOVEMBER
 Nov. 1..... Teacher In-Service/Parent Visitation
 Nov. 11..... Veteran's Day
 Nov. 14..... Virtual Learning/PD Day
 Nov. 21-25..... No School-Thanksgiving Holidays

DECEMBER
 Dec. 16..... Make-up Day (1/2 Day)
 Dec. 19..... Teacher In-Service/FLEX Day
 Dec. 20-Jan. 6..... No School-Christmas Holidays

JANUARY
 Jan. 9..... Teacher In-Service/FLEX Day
 Jan. 10..... Teacher In-Service Day/Parent Visitation
Jan. 11..... Students Return to School
 Jan. 16..... No School King/Lee Day

FEBRUARY
 Feb. 20..... Virtual Learning/PD Day

MARCH
 Mar. 6..... Virtual Learning/PD Day
 Mar. 20-24..... No School - Spring Break

APRIL
 April 7..... Teacher In-Service/FLEX Day
 April 10..... Virtual Learning/PD Day

MAY
 May 8..... Virtual Learning/PD Day
 May 25..... Make-up Day (1/2 Day)
 May 26..... Teacher In-Service Day

■ School Holidays ■ Teacher In-Service Days
■ ½ Days ■ Virtual Learning/PD Days

GRADING PERIODS
 1st Grading Period: (8/08-10/07) = 44 Days
 2nd Grading Period: (10/11-12/16) = 42 Days
 3rd Grading Period: (1/11-3/17) = 47 Days
 4th Grading Period: (3/27-5/25) = 43 Days
 1st Semester = 86 Days 2nd Semester = 90 Days

PROGRESS REPORT & REPORT CARD DATES
 Progress Report: 09/08/21 Report Card: 10/13/21
 Progress Report: 11/10/21 Report Card: 01/12/22
 Progress Report: 02/16/22 Report Card: 03/30/22
 Progress Report: 04/27/22 Report Card: 05/25/22

Along with scheduled holidays and breaks, 12-month employees will receive May 29, 2023 (Memorial Day), July 4-6, 2023 and 2 additional vacation days.

JULY 2022						
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OCTOBER 2022						
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APRIL 2023						
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MAY 2023						
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JUNE 2023						
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Health and Safety-Cleaning and Prevention

Winston County Schools' existing procedures have been revised to ensure the safety of all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Health and Safety Practices

Social distancing and the use of personal protective equipment can help safeguard learning environments and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The use of face coverings will be optional for all students, faculty, and staff. All individuals are encouraged to wear a face covering as much as feasible for the circumstances. CDC and ADPH guidelines require the use of face coverings on public transportation, including school buses.

Buildings and Common Areas

- Hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom and in strategic common spaces. Soap and paper towels will be stocked at sinks and hand washing or sanitizing will be encouraged often.
- School spaces and high touch areas will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Faculty and staff will teach and reinforce good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- COVID-19 prevention signage will be posted at all entrances and throughout the buildings.

Entryways/Hallways

- Traffic patterns through the hallways may be altered to reduce student interaction.
- High traffic entry and exits will be cleaned frequently throughout the school day.

Classrooms

- Sharing of personal items among students will be discouraged and limited.
- The use of communal classroom items may be limited to small groups.
- Student will be provided the ability to check-out library/media resources

Restrooms

- The number of students allowed into restrooms may be limited to reduce student interaction.
- Students will be provided with adequate materials to properly wash hands and mitigate the spread of sickness and/or virus.

Cafeteria

- Students will dine in the cafeteria at their designated times

- Breakfast will be consumed in the classroom unless determined otherwise by school administration.
- Lunch will be consumed in the lunchroom each day unless determined otherwise by school administration.

School Office

Winston County Schools desire to engage parents and stakeholders in new and innovative ways. Please refrain from in-person visits to the school with the exception of emergency situations.

- All visitors may wear a mask upon entering the building.
- Parents may only drop off food **for their child** in the school office.

Health and Safety-Screening and Wellness

The physical health and well-being of every person associated with Winston County Schools is our primary focus as we reopen and maintain a safe school environment.

Routine Health Screening:

Parents should screen their students each morning for fever and/or COVID-19 symptoms. Any student with a fever **over 99.4 degrees** or **two COVID-19 symptoms** should not go to school. Students displaying these symptoms should be treated as presumed infected until diagnosed otherwise.

A visual screening of students may be conducted upon arrival at school, and any student exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent to the school nurse for evaluation and parent contact. Students with a fever over 99.4 degrees or two COVID-19 symptoms will be required to leave campus until cleared to return by a physician or such time that they have recovered according to CDC recommendations for recovery. Students will remain in a quarantined area until a parent arrives.

Parents will not be allowed in buildings when picking up students who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. Students will be escorted to the parent's vehicle by a school designee.

If a student or employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, a minimum ten-day quarantine period will be required unless deemed otherwise by a physician.

Students who are not allowed to return to school will be able to participate in remote learning opportunities.

Parents are responsible for notifying the school principal if your child has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or if you suspect that your child has COVID-19.

Learning Environment

Traditional and virtual instruction plans have been developed with the health and safety concerns of all students in mind. **Students/Parents must select an instructional plan at the start of the school year. Upon selection, students will have no more than seven (7) days to switch learning paths.** This change will only be allowed one time and will remain for the duration of the semester. If no instructional plan has been chosen by this deadline, the student will automatically be enrolled in traditional instruction.

An alternate instruction plan will be utilized in the event a student is absent from school due to being diagnosed with or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or in the event a long-term school closure is necessary due to COVID-19.

Traditional Instruction:

Traditional instruction involves in-person, teacher-lead instruction taking place in a classroom setting, while adhering to enhanced procedures to ensure the safety of all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

While the maximum square footage in each classroom will be utilized, students participating in traditional instruction may not be able to maintain a social distance of 6 feet throughout the school day at all times.

Virtual Instruction:

Virtual instruction provides students an alternative to traditional instruction, and requires additional organizational skills and more parental involvement than with a traditional classroom format. Virtual school classes do not provide live instruction. A variety of software platforms will be used to provide student instruction. Virtual instruction is available to students in grades K-12. We encourage parents of students in grades K-3 to consider the new requirements of the [Alabama Literacy Act](#) when choosing the appropriate instructional plan for your student. All Winston County students will follow these new state guidelines.

Students who choose the virtual instruction plan will be provided a 7-day trial period. At the conclusion of the trial period, students will not be able to transition from virtual school to traditional school, and must remain there until the end of the semester.

Students enrolled in virtual school will remain students on record at their existing school.

All students who select virtual instruction will complete all requirements, including State and local testing, at the Virtual School site under the direction of the Virtual School Administrator. A preliminary meeting for further information is required upon enrollment in the virtual program. All testing for virtual school students will be completed at the Virtual School site which is housed on the campus of the Winston Career Academy.

Remote Instruction:

Remote instruction will **only be available** for students with prolonged illness, who are absent from school for an extended period of time due to any illness, or **in the event a long-term school closure is necessary due to COVID-19**. Remote instruction involves nontraditional instruction directed by your child's teacher and includes content based on Alabama's critical standards. Learning management systems such as Google Classroom and Schoology may be used to disseminate and submit assignments, as well as share feedback on learning experiences in the remote learning context.

Operations and Facilities

Visitors

- Visitors to buildings during normal operating hours may be limited. Visitors are encouraged to visit campus only when absolutely necessary. Parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers, administrators, or support personnel using email or phone calls in order to limit unnecessary visits.
- In order to minimize exposure, personal deliveries to students should be limited to medical needs and emergencies.
- Updated check-in/check-out procedures will be communicated by each individual school with back-to-school information.
- All visitors to the school may wear a mask or face covering upon entering the building.

Custodial Services

- Enhanced daily and weekly cleaning protocols will be implemented.
- High use areas will be cleaned frequently throughout the day.
- Classroom sanitation will be a joint effort by the school custodial staff, classroom teachers, and other school personnel

School Nutrition

- Grab-N-Go or pre-plated meals will be available.
- A contactless payment system called MySchoolBucks is available for student meals. Parents are strongly encouraged to utilize this system.
- Students will eat in the lunchroom at strategically scheduled times while following safety guidelines. Students may eat meals in the classroom or in other areas, as a whole, when designated by the teacher and principal.
- Cafeteria staff will maintain compliance with the ALSDE and ADPH when preparing and serving food.
- Water fountains may be shut off, if this occurs an alternative water source will be provided. Students may bring adequate amounts of bottled water to school each day.

Attendance and Truancy

- Students who attend traditional school will be expected to attend on a regular basis in accordance with the board-approved attendance policy.
- Attendance for remote and virtual students will be tracked by participation in the assigned virtual or remote learning activities.
- Students who are absent should submit a note for their absence in the school office upon return to school
- In the case of a Covid-19 related absence, the student/parent is strongly encouraged to notify the school administrator and submit a physician's note in a timely manner to the school.

Athletics/Extracurricular Activities

Guidance from the ALSDE and the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) will be used to make decisions concerning athletic and other extracurricular activities.

School Events

- Plans for student registration, schedule pickup, and locker sales will be released by each individual school.
- Traditional field trips, public assemblies, pep rallies, etc. could be limited based on state guidance.
- Schools may take advantage of numerous virtual field trips in order to enrich and supplement curriculum.

School Nursing Services

- School nurses will systematically review and update all current student health plans (Individual Healthcare Plans/IHP's) and make accommodations and adjustments as necessary.
- Any changes to a student's health status should be reported to the nurse. All student health information will remain confidential.

Food service areas

- Procedures for meal service will ensure as much distancing as is feasible.
- Masks may be worn in food service lines where social distancing is not feasible.
- Principals and Child Nutrition staff will work together to develop meal schedules.
- Students may eat in the lunchroom and will be encouraged to adhere to CDC and ADPH social distancing recommendations. Child Nutrition staff will follow all ADPH guidelines for sanitation and personal wellness.

Technology

All kindergarten through twelfth grade students of Winston County Schools will have access to a district-owned electronic device.

Winston County Schools will issue these devices to students as needed for remote instruction. If another long-term school closure occurs, Winston County Schools will be prepared to move traditional classroom instruction to remote instruction via Google Classroom, Schoology, or other instructional methods.

Virtual school students are responsible for their own device and reliable Internet connectivity.

Internet Access:

Wireless Internet access is available at public libraries and at all Winston County Schools. Winston County Schools also provides mobile wireless hotspots utilizing school buses. The locations of these buses is listed below:

WiFi Buses 2021-2022

Driver	Location	Contact
Teresa Jones #79	Mt. Pleasant Church 15765 US HWY 278 Cullman, AL 35057	Rex Seymore
Jeff Sudduth #SE8	Moreland Baptist Church 13222 County Road 63 Houston, AL 35572	Wayne Womack 256-565-5712
Sherry Hill #64	Houston Baptist Church 81 County Road 3154 Houston, AL 35572	Jeff Gunning
Carolyn Kratz #82	Union Grove Church County Road 8 Double Springs, AL 35553	Mike Milligan 205-522-1000
Susan Frost #55	Ashridge Fire Department 32960 HWY 195 Haleyville, AL 35565	Dewayne Baker
Debbie Henderson #23	The Rock Church 19870 US HWY 278 Double Springs, AL 35553	Drew Robbins 850-625-4392
Tara Gable #18-47	Ephesus Church 1236 County Road 93 Haleyville, AL 35565	Jeff Whitten 205-269-4372
Lou Ann Crane #19-07	Grace Baptist Church 26268 Al HYW 129 Haleyville, AL 35565	Ricky Thrasher 205-269-0348
John Stanford #41	Beech Grove Church 2332 Beech Grove Road Haleyville, AL 35565	Brent Palmer 256-668-3690
Mike Lynn #19	Cross Roads Church of Christ 90 County Road 353 Lynn, AL 35575	Daniel Farris 205-269-2170
Janet Knight #20	Ashbank Church 9208 County Road 59 Nauvoo, AL 35578	Perry Thomas 205-300-8250
Holly Howton #30	Bethel Church 2750 County Road 12 Arley, AL 35541	Mike Tidwell 256-347-8140

***Buses will be available in between routes and overnight. Buses will not be available on the weekends.**

Technical Support:

If a virtual student needs technical support, please contact our IT Department. To submit a Technical Support request, please click [here](#) or visit winstonk12.org - Parents - Student/Parent Technical Support Request. While our technology team will review and address tickets throughout the day, responses to Virtual Students typically will be handled between 1:00 and 2:00 each day. We will dedicate specific times each day to address tickets for remote students. Technical support will not be available for devices not issued by Winston County Schools.

Special Education

Winston County Schools is dedicated to meeting the individualized service and accessibility needs of our students with exceptionalities.

In our effort to meet the needs of students with disabilities recognized under IDEA or Section 504, provisions for traditional, virtual, and remote learning may be offered for all services documented in each student's individualized plan, including goal instruction, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy. All IEP services will be provided to the fullest extent possible.

IEP and 504 plan development and amendments will be addressed in IEP meetings via traditional meeting, virtual meeting, or phone conference. Formal evaluations necessary to identify or review a student's eligibility for special education services will be traditional utilizing Winston County School's social distancing and safety directives to the greatest extent possible.

Any policy regarding face coverings should be sensitive to the needs of students with medical issues that make the wearing of a mask inadvisable.

Parents/guardians should contact their child's IEP case manager or the school 504 coordinator (school counselor) with any specific questions or concerns.

Transportation

- Individuals who ride school buses will be expected to abide by the requirements of the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) as stated below:

“During school transportation: CDC’s Order to wear masks while on public conveyances applies to all public transportation including school buses. Regardless of the mask policy at school, passengers and drivers must wear masks on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC’s Order.”

- Masks will be available upon request
- Drivers will sanitize buses at the end of each route
- Buses will be equipped with hand sanitizer for student use.
- Bus drivers are encouraged to wear a mask, however careful consideration will be given to driver visibility and safety of transportation when determining the use of a mask or other facial covering.
- Visible signage to communicate COVID-19 symptoms will be displayed on buses.
- Eating is prohibited on state school buses by federal and state law. Because of the pandemic, this rule will be strictly enforced.
- All students will have an assigned seat.
- Students will be required to face forward and not lean across the seats. If students do not adhere to this rule, they will not be allowed to continue riding the bus and parents will have to provide transportation.

Please recognize and remember that COVID-19 remains a threat outside of the school setting. According to ADPD, vaccinations, face-coverings, social distancing, and hygiene are the best tools to combat this pandemic in all areas of our society. The Winston County School system may modify this guidance based on changes to the ADPH and CDC recommendations or as conditions may warrant.

American Rescue Plan ACT of 2021 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief

1. The extent to which and how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, in line with the most recent CDC guidance, in order to continuously and safely operate schools for in-person learning.

- Train all faculty and staff in CDC guidelines
- Hire additional nursing staff to ensure proper contact tracing and identification as needed
- Hire additional custodial staff to properly clean facilities as needed
- Provide visuals for students and staff with proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Coordination with State and local health officials to inform of vaccination opportunities to school communities
- Purchase supplies to sanitize and clean facilities

2. How the LEA will use the funds it reserves under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act (totaling not less than 20 percent of the LEA's total allocation of ARP ESSER funds) to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs

- Summer learning programs for K-3 supporting unfinished learning in English-Language Arts
- Employ interventionists to identify and address learning loss
- Employ math coaches to assist and intervene with learning loss
- Purchase quality intervention supports and materials

3. How the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with sections 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act.

- Improve facilities to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards. – HVAC units, Roofing, Flooring
- Provide high quality professional development for teachers
- Purchase technology to support virtual learning
- Hire staff to provide meals during long-term closures as needed

4. How the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to address the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and migratory students.

- Diagnostic and screening testing – K-8 NWEA Map Benchmark, DIBELS, IXL, Odysseyware
- Mental Health Supports
- Additional Paraprofessionals as needed



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